

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for producing microdroplets, comprising:
~~the step of~~ allowing a first dispersion phase and a second dispersion phase to act on a first continuous phase at an intersection portion among the first continuous phase, the first dispersion phase, and the second dispersion phase, whereby the microdroplets are sequentially produced.

Claim 2 (Original): The method for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 1, wherein the intersection portion is a cross intersection portion.

Claim 3 (Original): The method for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 1, wherein the intersection portion includes T-shaped intersection portions, the T-shaped intersection portions being located at positions shifted from each other.

Claim 4 (Original): The method for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 1, wherein microdroplets formed of the first dispersion phase are different from microdroplets formed of the second dispersion phase.

Claim 5 (Original): The method for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 2, wherein the first dispersion phase and the second dispersion phase are allowed to alternately act on at predetermined time intervals so that microdroplets having uniform sizes and different components are alternately produced at a regular period.

Claim 6 (Original): The method for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 3, wherein the first dispersion phase and the second dispersion phase are allowed to alternately act on at predetermined time intervals so that microdroplets having uniform sizes and different components are alternately produced at a regular period.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 5 [[or 6]], wherein the period is changeable.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method for producing microdroplets, comprising
~~the steps of:~~

allowing a first dispersion phase and a second dispersion phase to act on a first continuous phase at a cross intersection portion among the first continuous phase, the first dispersion phase, and the second dispersion phase so as to sequentially produce different microdroplets; and

supplying a liquid containing the different microdroplets to another cross intersection portion to which the first continuous phase and a second continuous phase are supplied, whereby double emulsion-microcapsules are produced.

Claim 9 (Original): An apparatus for producing microdroplets, comprising:

- (a) an intersection portion at which a first continuous phase, a first dispersion phase, and a second dispersion phase intersect with each other;
- (b) a first liquid feed device controlling the first dispersion phase;
- (c) a second liquid feed device controlling the second dispersion phase; and
- (d) a control device connected to the first liquid feed device and the second liquid feed device,

wherein (e) the first liquid feed device and the second liquid feed device are controlled by a signal from the control device so that microdroplets formed of the first dispersion phase and microdroplets formed of the second dispersion phase are sequentially produced.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 9, wherein the intersection portion is a cross intersection portion.

Claim 11 (Original): The apparatus for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 9, wherein the intersection portion includes T-shaped intersection portions, the T-shaped intersection portions being located at positions shifted from each other.

Claim 12 (Original): The apparatus for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 10, wherein by the signal from the control device, microdroplets having uniform sizes and different components are alternately produced at a regular period.

Claim 13 (Original): The apparatus for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 11, wherein by the signal from the control device, microdroplets having uniform sizes and different components are alternately produced at a regular period.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The apparatus for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 12 [[or 13]], wherein by the signal from the control device, the period is changeable.

Claim 15 (Original): The method for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 8, wherein a liquid containing the microdroplets is supplied to another cross intersection portion to which the first continuous phase and the second continuous phase are supplied so as to produce double emulsion-microcapsules.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method for producing microdroplets, comprising the steps of:

separating a liquid containing primary droplets and satellite droplets into the primary droplets and the satellite droplets at an expansion portion; and
recovering the primary droplets and the satellite droplets in a primary droplet recovery channel and a satellite droplet recovery channel, respectively, at a branching portion.

Claim 17 (Original): The method for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 16, wherein the primary droplets comprise first and second primary droplets and the satellite droplets comprise first and second satellite droplets, and at the branching portion, the first and the second primary droplets, the first satellite droplets, and the second satellite droplets are separately recovered.

Claim 18 (Original): The method for producing microdroplets, according to Claim 16, wherein a liquid containing the satellite droplets is supplied to an intersection portion to which a first continuous phase and a second continuous phase are supplied, whereby double emulsion-microcapsules are produced.

Claim 19 (Original): An apparatus for producing microdroplets, comprising:

- (a) a microdroplet producing portion producing primary droplets and satellite droplets;
- (b) a microdroplet supply channel supplying microdroplets from the microdroplet producing portion;
- (c) an expansion portion connected to the microdroplet supply channel; and
- (d) a branching portion having a satellite droplet recovery channel to recover the satellite droplets and a primary droplet recovery channel connected to a front end of the expansion portion to recover the primary droplets.

Claim 20 (Original): An apparatus for producing microdroplets, comprising:

- (a) a microdroplet producing portion producing first and second primary droplets and first and second satellite droplets;
- (b) a microdroplet supply channel supplying microdroplets from the microdroplet producing portion;
- (c) an expansion portion connected to the microdroplet supply channel; and
- (d) a branching portion having a primary droplet recovery channel connected to a front end of the expansion portion to recover the first and the second primary droplets, a first satellite droplet recovery channel to recover the first satellite droplets, and a second satellite droplet recovery channel to recover the second satellite droplets.